

REMARKS

In view of the above amendment and the following remarks, Applicant requests reconsideration of this application.

Claims 1-2 are pending in this case.

Correction of Filing Receipt

As a preliminary matter, Applicants note that official Filing Receipt has incorrectly listed the title of the application as: "Method and System for Automatically Planning, Booking, and Calendaring Travel Arrangements." Applicants note that the word "Booking" does not appear in the title of the application as filed, and request appropriate correction of the Filing Receipt.

Response to Claim Rejections

Claims 1-2 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Jones, et al. in view of Tagawa. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 1 is directed to a system for automatically planning, booking and calendaring travel arrangements. The system includes a data storage device, a booking engine, an output device and a processor. The processor is programmed to maintain in the storage device a database of user profile information including information regarding air travel booking preferences, car booking preferences, hotel booking preferences and personal preference air travel ratings. The processor also is programmed to receive a travel request input including travel request data gathered from a user's calendar application and to use the stored user profile information and the travel request data to automatically formulate a travel request in response to the travel request input. The travel request includes airline, hotel and rental car reservation information. The processor also is programmed to automatically create a travel query file by applying business rules to the travel request, including: automatically executing an air booking process based on at least two categories of user preference information selected from the group of categories of lowest price, arrival/departure time, airline, non-stop, duration, alternate airports and full fare automobile upgrades; automatically executing a car booking process; and automatically executing a hotel booking process. The processor also is programmed to: submit the query file to a booking engine

for creating a travel request query; submit the travel request query to a travel distribution system for retrieving air, car and hotel availability information; receive from the travel distribution system the air, car and hotel availability information and create a suggested travel itinerary; output for display on a user display device the suggested travel itinerary; allow manual changes to be made to the suggested travel itinerary; accept manual confirmation of the suggested travel itinerary; and process data from the confirmed travel itinerary for automatically creating and storing appointment events in a user's calendar application.

Jones, et al. and Tagawa, taken alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest a system having the elements recited in claim 1. For example, as the Examiner notes, Jones, et al. does not disclose a processor programmed to receive a travel request input, including travel request data gathered from a user's calendar application, and to use the stored user profile information and the travel request data to automatically formulate a travel request in response to the travel request input. The Examiner concludes, however, that Tagawa teaches this element. Applicants respectfully disagree.

Tagawa is directed to a self-service system for selling travel-related services that utilizes kiosks (26) which display a calendar interface (FIG. 12) for the user to input dates for various travel-related services. Tagawa does not suggest or teach a system that communicates with the user's calendar application, as does Applicants' invention. In this regard, Applicants' system recited in claim 1 includes a processor programmed to receive a travel request from the user's calendar application and to process data for automatically creating and storing appointment events in the user's calendar application. By contrast, Tagawa simply presents a system calendar interface from which the user enters dates manually into the system for reserving desired travel-related services. The system of Tagawa does not teach or suggest communicating this information in any way from or to the user's calendar application.

Applicants respectfully suggest, therefore, that claim 1 is patentable over Jones et al. and Tagawa.

Claim 2 is directed to a method for automatically planning, booking and calendaring travel arrangements. The method includes: maintaining in a computer storage device a database

Response and Amendment
US Patent Application No. 09/836,141

of user profile information including information regarding air travel booking preferences, car booking preferences, hotel booking preferences and personal preference air travel ratings; receiving a travel request input including travel request data gathered from a user's calendar application; using the stored user profile information and the travel request data to automatically formulate a travel request in response to the travel request input, the travel request including airline, hotel and rental car reservation information; automatically creating a travel query file by applying business rules to the travel request, including automatically executing an air booking process based on at least two categories of user preference information selected from the group of categories of lowest price, arrival/departure time, airline, non-stop, duration, alternate airports and full fare automobile upgrades, automatically executing a car booking process, and automatically executing a hotel booking process; submitting the query file to a booking engine for creating a travel request query; submitting the travel request query to a travel distribution system for retrieving air, car and hotel availability information; receiving from the travel distribution system the air, car and hotel availability information and creating a suggested travel itinerary; outputting for display on a user display device the suggested travel itinerary; allowing manual changes to be made to the suggested travel itinerary; accepting manual confirmation of the suggested travel itinerary; and automatically creating and storing appointment events in the calendar application using data from the confirmed travel itinerary.

Jones, et al. and Tagawa, taken alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest a system having the elements recited in claim 2. For example, as discussed above, neither Jones, et al. nor Tagawa disclose receiving a travel request input including travel request data gathered from a user's calendar application or automatically creating and storing appointment events in the user's calendar application using data from the confirmed travel itinerary.

Applicants respectfully suggest, therefore, that claim 2 is patentable over Jones et al. and Tagawa.

Conclusion

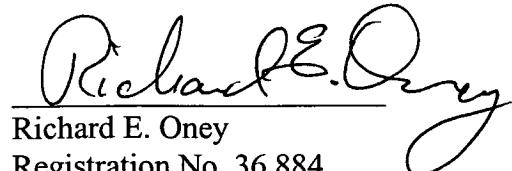
For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that claims 1-2 are in allowable form. Applicants therefore request reconsideration and allowance of these claims.

Response and Amendment
US Patent Application No. 09/836,141

The Examiner is invited to telephone the Applicant's undersigned attorney at (602) 255-6094 if this would in any way facilitate prosecution of the application.

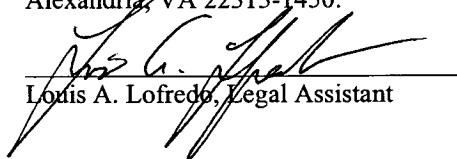
Dated: January 18, 2005

Respectfully submitted,


Richard E. Oney
Registration No. 36,884
Tiffany & Bosco, P.A.
2525 E. Camelback Road, Third Floor
Phoenix, Arizona 85016
Tel: (602) 255-6094

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Louis A. Lofredo, Legal Assistant

1/18/05
Date of Signature